

The Historic Preservation Fund Annual Report 2007

Hurricane Recovery Grants

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita roared through the Gulf Coast leaving acres of damaged historic buildings in their paths. On June 15, 2006, Congress appropriated \$43,000,000 from the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) for the preservation, stabilization, rehabilitation, and repair of historic properties in Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi. The National Park Service moved this money to the State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs) quickly to assist property owners in tremendous need. Thus the implementation of the Hurricane Grant program was a major element of fiscal year 2007 for both NPS and the SHPOs in Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi. All three states established grant programs and public outreach campaigns in an effort to locate and select worthy preservation projects. Louisiana received an additional \$10,000,000 from the HPF for its recovery efforts in fiscal year 2007.

Targeting properties listed in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, each state spent fiscal year 2007 guiding damaged sites through the grant and rehabilitation process. Alabama selected all of their hurricane grant recipients which represent a pool of 30 projects. Louisiana reviewed over 1,900 applicants and currently has over 550 active grants focused on private homeowners. Mississippi evaluated over 1,300 potential projects and selected 326 primarily private homeowner-based projects. While there is a long recovery ahead for Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi, all three states have demonstrated great progress and success in their selected grant projects and continued preservation efforts.

"The City of Gulfport is dedicated to preserving our past as we look forward to the future. With assistance from the Historic Preservation Fund's Hurricane Relief Grant Program, our cherished neighborhoods are coming back, important pieces of our history are being rebuilt and our downtown district is receiving a facelift, reminiscent of the past. The historical character of our community is being renewed, distinguishing us from others and preserving our heritage so that it can be shared with future generations."

Mayor Brent Warr, City of Gulfport, Mississippi



Origins of the Historic Preservation Fund

In 1966, the Special Committee on Historic Preservation of the U.S. Conference of Mayors addressed the need to establish a national historic preservation program. The result was the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) which created the National Register of Historic Places, a mechanism for better Federal agency planning as well as designating a State Historic Preservation Officer for each State. The Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) was then established in 1976 as a matching grant program, funded by Outer Continental Shelf oil lease revenues. Subsequent amendments to the 1966 Act served to benefit Tribal and local governments as well.

How Does the Historic Preservation Fund Work?

The National Park Service (NPS) administers the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior and uses the majority of the funds to provide matching grants to State and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers to assist in their efforts to protect and preserve their historic resources. The State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), appointed by the Governor for each state, manages this annual appropriation to perform the preservation responsibilities required by the NHPA. Preservation activities may be carried out directly by States, or in the form of subgrants and contracts to public and private agencies, nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, and individuals. HPF grants to Indian Tribes help them assume SHPO responsibilities on Indian land and undertake preservation activities.

Funding is used by States and Tribes to pay for HPF eligible preservation projects including: survey and inventory, National Register nominations, preservation education, architectural planning, historic structure reports, community preservation plans, and bricks and mortar repair to buildings. The HPF allows each State the flexibility to shape a program according to its needs, as long as they are meeting the overall responsibilities outlined by the NHPA. Ten percent of each SHPO's allocation must be subgranted to assist Certified Local Governments: local governments certified by NPS as having made a local commitment to historic preservation. These funds can be spent locally on projects like those listed above, with selection decisions made by the State, not NPS. All HPF assisted projects must meet the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for Archeology and Historic Preservation* and the *Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*.



The City of Dubuque, Iowa, is one of NPS's most successful local partners in historic preservation. Recognized as a Certified Local Government in 1985, Dubuque has excelled in tapping into the Save America's Treasures (SAT) and expanded to the Preserve America (PA) grant programs. In fiscal year 2007, the Dubuque County Jail was awarded \$125,000 from SAT to stabilize the foundation of the unique Egyptian Revival jail built in 1857. Meanwhile they continued construction work on the Dubuque Shot Tower, which previously received a \$295,000 SAT grant for major stabilization work and reconstruction of the historic access stair.

The partnership between Dubuque and NPS expanded into the Preserve America grant program, now in its second year of funding. Dubuque received a \$150,000 award to create an exhibit and education program for the Mines of Spain, a recreational and historic site also listed as a National Historic Landmark. The City continued to work on the Dubuque History Trail, a previously funded \$148,500 Preserve America award to design wayfinding, mapping, walking tours, podcasts, interpretation, and kiosks for a trail linking seven major historic sites. Dubuque, Iowa, serves as a fine example of how Federal, State, and local preservation programs and the Historic Preservation Fund can partner to do outstanding historic preservation work and education at the local level.

"As private developers committed to sustainable historic preservation, we rely on the Federal Historic Preservation Tax program as a financial incentive to create an investment case that qualifies for commercially available debt/equity financing. Without the tax credit program, the project investments that we make would not be financially viable; with the tax credit program, we are able to invest millions of dollars in local communities and businesses to preserve historic buildings, create local jobs, and strengthen civic pride."

**Nick Ondrejka & Judy McKie, Developers,
Preservation Green, LLC, San Francisco, California**

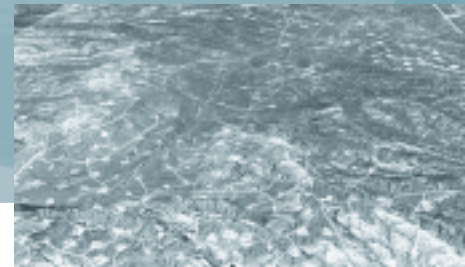
The Historic Preservation Fund in 2007

In fiscal year 2007, the U.S. Congress appropriated \$55.66 million from the HPF for historic preservation grants. HPF matching grants serve as catalysts for preserving and protecting our Nation's irreplaceable heritage. HPF funded grants and programs also encourage private and nonfederal investment in historic preservation efforts nationwide and assist State, Tribal, and local governments with expanding and accelerating their historic preservation activities.

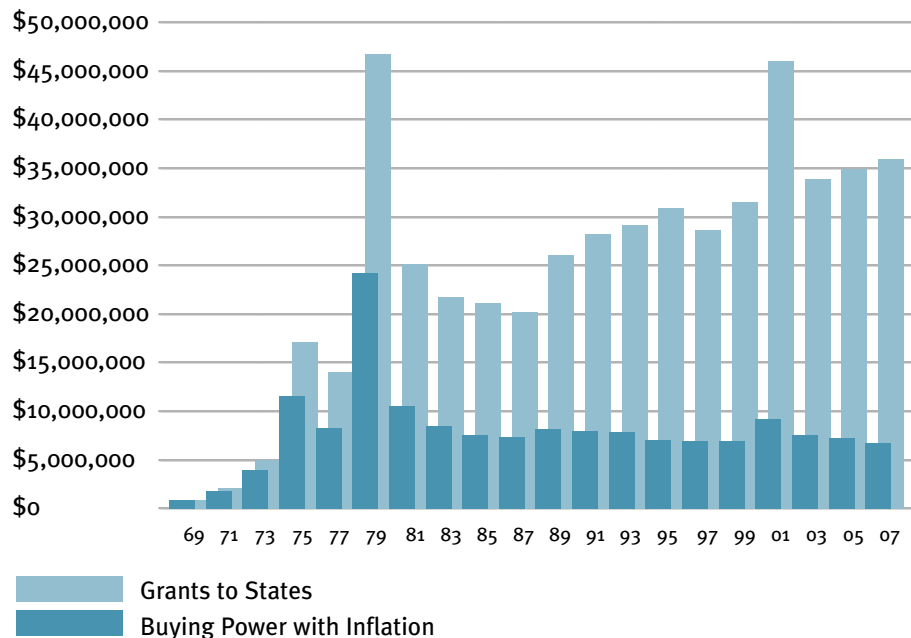
Also in 2007, Congress appropriated an additional \$10 million from the HPF to assist the State of Louisiana in its recovery from hurricane Katrina. The funds are being directed to their homeowner-focused grant program, as well providing additional staff to facilitate required reviews associated with rebuilding the Gulf region.

Fiscal Year 2007 at a Glance

- Provided \$10 million in emergency hurricane relief to Louisiana.
- Over \$4.35 billion of private investment in the rehabilitation of commercial historic properties under the Federal Historic Preservation Tax Program; a total of \$45.18 billion since 1977.
- 6,553 low and moderate income housing units created through the Federal Historic Preservation Tax Credit program, a 17% increase over last year; a total of 93,061 units since 1977.
- An estimated 40,755 jobs created by Federal Historic Preservation Tax Program rehabilitation projects.
- Approximately 17.1 million acres surveyed for cultural resources, with over 152,700 properties evaluated for their historical significance and added to State inventories. Approximately 112,600 acres surveyed and 347 properties added to Tribal inventories.
- 1,402 new listings to the National Register of Historic Places, including 333 historic districts, bringing the cumulative total to 82,596 listings on the National Register.
- State Historic Preservation Offices reviewed 129,200 Federal undertakings providing 81,800 National Register eligibility opinions. Tribal Historic Preservation Offices reviewed 30,900 undertakings and made 1,400 eligibility opinions.
- The Wyoming SHPO has been working diligently to establish the Wyoming Cultural Resource Information System to help streamline the Section 106 review process in their state. The System provides efficient, secure, online access for cultural resource professionals conducting Section 106 related evaluations for projects in Wyoming. It allows online access to images of site forms and geographic information system (GIS) data, and provides the ability to query for location, site types, eligibility and other attributes, as well as the status of Section 106 compliance projects under the NHPA. The Bureau of Land Management and the WYSHPO launched a shared system called "CRM Tracker" in fiscal year 2007. To date, over 4,700 undertakings have been submitted to the Wyoming SHPO through this online tool, reducing time and duplication of effort. Conservatively, this system saves the SHPO the equivalent of two full-time staff positions each year, and with the increase of Wyoming projects in the last five years, the use of the system allows them to meet the demanding workload. Currently, the GIS data is only fifty percent complete with the goal of reaching one hundred percent by 2015.
- 58 new communities became Certified Local Governments (CLGs), bringing the cumulative total to 1,616 CLGs throughout the nation, the largest number in the history of the program.
- CLGs locally designated 87,800 properties, providing 79,200 properties with protection under local law.
- Save America's Treasures was funded for the eighth year at \$7.57 million to support the restoration of nationally significant properties and collections. A total of 31 projects in 24 States and the District of Columbia were awarded, over \$108 million was requested.
- Preserve America was funded for the second year at \$4.9 million to support planning for heritage tourism development and preservation in local communities. A total of 72 projects in 33 states were awarded, over \$13.9 million was requested.
- American Indian Tribes, Alaska Native Groups, and Native Hawaiian Organizations were awarded \$678,300 to 18 projects as part of the Tribal Grant program, over \$1.9 million was requested.



SHPOs—Average Award vs Inflation



Distribution of HPF for FY 2007

State Historic Preservation Offices \$37,217,000

Tribal Historic Preservation Offices \$4,767,700

Save America's Treasures \$8,074,000

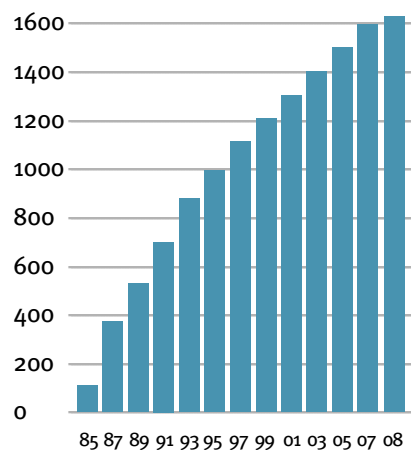
Preserve America \$4,926,000

Tribal Grant Program \$678,300

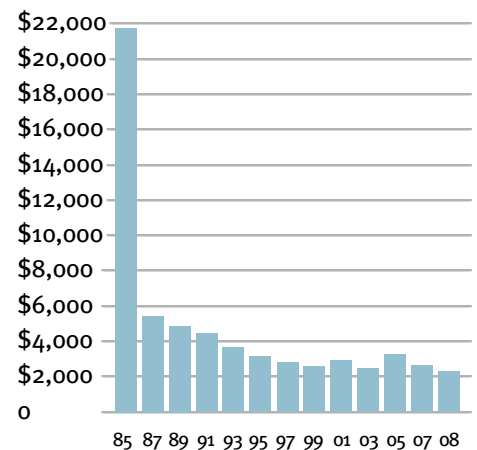
TOTAL \$55,663,000

*Supplemental Hurricane Assistance \$10,000,000

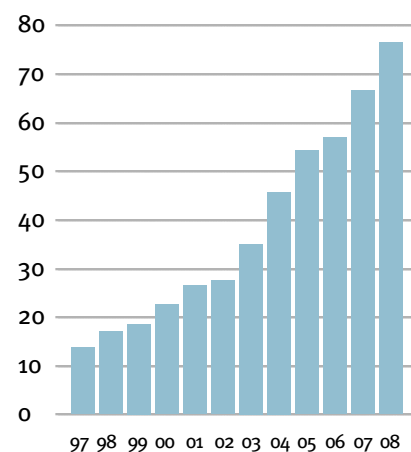
Number of CLGs



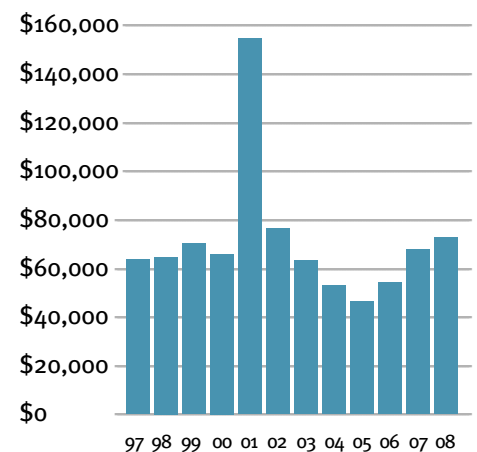
Average CLG Award



Number of THPOs



Average THPO Award



NCSHPO

U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Historic Preservation Grants Division
Washington, DC
www.nps.gov/history/hps/hpg
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